



# The Math Messenger

## Mrs. Z's 2nd Grade

### September 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome back! This is your Math Messenger...a newsletter telling you a brief overview of what your child is learning in Math class throughout the month. It's a monthly newsletter that will explain what your child is learning in Math as well as some ideas, games, and websites you can use at home! I hope you can use this as a quality learning tool in your home and remember I am available anytime to discuss any questions or concerns! Let's work together to ensure your child the best education they are entitled to! Have a great week!

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### A snapshot...

Sept. 1—2: carousel activity about Math and reducing Math anxiety

Sept 5-9: working with shapes including working on recognizing and naming, comparing and sorting.

Sept 12-16: identifying properties of shapes including number of sides, dimensions, right angles, etc.

Sept 19-23: predicting and combining two-dimension objects

Sept 26-30: symmetry of 1 and 2 dimensional shapes as well as parallel and perpendicular lines.

### Shapes, Shapes, and more SHAPES!

This month our class will primarily be working with shapes. Want to know more how you can help at home? Come to family night! All subjects are covered so we can discuss any area's you need! Come join in the fun on September 1st from 6 to 7 pm in your child's classroom! Here's some ideas to get you started in the meantime:

- Find the lines of symmetry in names in the family. Who has the most? Least? (example: the letter "B" has 1 line, "O" has 2. Therefore, BOB would have 4 total.)
- During this weeks grocery trip, have your child look for shapes (cone, cylinder, rectangular boxes, rectangular prisms). Which ones stack better? Which have flat sides? Which have circle faces? Discuss why space is so important to the grocer? (More space allows for more product to be stored)
- Look for shapes in old magazines. Have your child cut them out and bring to school to add to our shapes graphic organizer we use in our classroom. I'm currently accepting all shapes!
- Cut apart cereal boxes, soup labels, butter containers, or any three dimensional paper object before throwing it away. See if your child can put it back to it's original state. Discuss how the object looks when it's flat (two-dimensional) as opposed to when it's assembled and three dimensional.

### Interesting Math-site:

© <http://www.tvokids.com/games/trianglealley>

This is an interactive website that allows students to move a variety of shapes to fit in a rectangle. Students have to use their critical thinking skills to figure out how all the shapes can fit into the container provided! A good knowledge of clicking and moving the mouse is required to use this site. Mom or Dad should be available for help! :)

### Math Madness:

Newspaper Carrier 4th  
Day—Locate different numbers in the paper this weekend! What's the biggest number you can find? Smallest? Any fractions?

International Literacy 8th  
Day—check out "Counting on Frank" by Rod Clement. This is available for checkout if needed.

Collect Rocks Day— 16th  
practice sorting and counting rocks from the yard! Bring in a graph of what you find for extra credit!

Safety Pin Invented— 30th  
thread 5 beads on each safety pin. Attach 5 safety pins vertically to 1 horizontal safety pin. Practice counting by 5's.